

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:NLAUDERDALE/SMKLINGAMAN:JKB
APPROVED BY EUR - RDVINE
EUR/SOV - GMATTHEWS
T - GHAMILTON

-----087682 271609Z /44

P R 271602Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 205632

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC GW SF PARM

SUBJECT: FRG AND SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR QUESTION

REFS: (A) BONN 13825; (B) BONN 13580 (NOTAL)

1. FRG MINISTER-COUNSELOR SCHAUER CALLED ON DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE NYE ON AUGUST 25 TO INFORM US OF FRG'S PLANNED RESPONSE TO SOVIETS RE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

2. SCHAUER SAID THE FRG INTENDS TO ANSWER THE BREZHNEV NOTE WHICH AMBASSADOR FALIN DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IN THE SAME MANNER IT WAS DELIVERED, I.E., ORALLY
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AND WITH A NON-PAPER DELIVERED TO GROMYKO THROUGH THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW. THE NON-PAPER WOULD THANK BREZHNEV FOR THE MESSAGE, POINT OUT THAT THE FRG AS A PARTY TO THE NPT IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST, AND FAVORS A CTB. THE NON-PAPER WOULD NOTE THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS ASSURED THE FRG THAT IT DOES NOT INTEND A TEST EXPLOSION AND THAT ITS NUCLEAR

PROGRAM IS ONLY FOR PEACEFUL USES. THE FRG NON-PAPER WILL POINT OUT FURTHER THAT THERE IS NO FRG-SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION ON A NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND THAT ALLEGATIONS TO THE CONTRARY IN THE SOVIET PRESS ARE NOT HELPFUL TO FRG-

USSR RELATIONS.

3. DR. NYE STATED THAT THE US HAS TRIED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ALL THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS. WE ARE GRATIFIED BY BONN'S COOPERATION AND CONSIDER IT SIGNIFICANT THAT THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS HAVE STUCK TOGETHER. SCHAUER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WERE RECENT INDICATIONS THAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT SIGN THE NPT. DR. NYE SAID YES, REFERRING TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S AUGUST 25 PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS CONSIDERING JOINING THE NPT AND WAS PLANNING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US ON THE SUBJECT.

4. SCHAUER ASKED WHETHER THE US HAD REPLIED TO THE SOVIETS. NYE INFORMED HIM THAT THE ACTING SECRETARY HAD REPLIED THROUGH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN EARLIER THIS WEEK. NYE SAID THAT THE US PLANNED TO GET BACK TO THE USSR AND WOULD ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE FRG, PROBABLY AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS. FURTHER RESPONSES TO THE USSR WOULD NOT BE DEFINITIVE BUT WOULD BE A PART OF CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS ON THE MATTER. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR TESTS, ALLEGATIONS, ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE205632
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NLAUDERDALE/SMKLINGAMAN:JKB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770310-1238
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770815/aaaaamhr.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 34d9df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 BONN 13825, 77 BONN 13580
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1458421
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG AND SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR QUESTION
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, GE, SF, UR
To: BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34d9df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009